

# INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Port Information, Basilan City, Isabela

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[The office of Naval Intelligence (12ND, No 137-53) furnished the following information to CIA for IAC dissemination in accordance with par 3c of NSCID#7.]

1. Approach - Entrance. Approach to Isabela ( $6^{\circ} 42.4'N$   $121^{\circ} 58.1'E$ ) should be made from the westward through the Malamaui Road and only during the daytime because of the shoals and banks in the vicinity which cannot be distinguished at night. From Malamaui Road either the Northern or Southern channel can be used to reach Isabela. The southern course is preferable because of the straight line approach while the northern course requires a turn in somewhat restricted waters. Both courses are exceptionally well marked for daytime entry. Night time entry should be made only in emergencies at which time the Pilot has facilities to place temporary lights on the buoys marking the southern approach.
2. Southern Approach. On a southeast course leaving Malamaui Island to Port, pick up Black Buoy No 1. At this point Red Buoys No 2 and No 4 will be plainly visible off the port bow. Ship can veer eastward until mid-channel position is reached and course  $01^{\circ}$  true leads through channel.
3. Northern Approach. From Malamaui Road take the northwest channel between Moro Island and Malamaui with Red Buoys No 2 and No 4 marking the coral reefs to starboard. The white triangular range beacon guides to center channel course  $69^{\circ} 30'$  true. When abeam of Red Buoy No 4, Red Buoy No 6 can be seen to starboard. Change course passing north of this buoy course  $108^{\circ} 30'$  true. Black and white stick buoys mark the reef water on this turn. All buoys are painted oil drums with large white numbers. They are placed on the edge of the reef in deep water, but it is advisable to pass them with 20 yards clearance. Pilot boards vessels at one mile due West of Moro Island. Pilot is optional. Captain Vincente Razon is stationed at Isabela as Pilot.

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Piers. The five piers from west to east are:

Basilan Lumber Company Pier: Wood construction, 600 feet long at the face with 33 feet of water at the west end and 40 feet of water frontal. The pier lies 250' true. If this pier is to be used to load other than Basilan Lumber Company cargo, arrangements must be made with the Basilan Lumber Company prior to the vessel's arrival. Pier has been extended considerably for log loading.

Basilan Lumber Company Tanker Dock: T-Shaped, 210 feet long at the face with 20 feet of water. It has fueling facilities and is equipped with a meter. This dock is used by smaller craft comparable to Interisland tankers.

Santa Clara Lumber Wharf: 250 feet long with 28 feet of water. The wharf is new with fender piles and mooring facilities.

American Rubber Dock: 210 feet long with 26 feet of water.

Western Mindanao Lumber Company Dolphins: 10 dolphins fronting Western Mindanao Lumber Company log pond. Water is 30 feet deep 15 feet away from dolphins and 24 feet deep close to dolphins. Depth decreases eastward.

#### 5. Principal Shippers.

Basilan Lumber Co	Logs and lumber
Santa Clara Lumber Co	Logs and lumber
American Rubber Co	Rubber, logs and lumber
Basilan Plantation Co	Rubber and copra
Sunagdan Plantation Co	Logs, lumber and copra
Pacific Copra Export Co	Copra
Tabacalera	Copra
Western Mindanao Lumber Co	Logs and lumber
Basilan Enterprises, Inc.	Logs

6. Labor. Stevedoring labor is locally supplied. The rate of loading is about three thousand board feet of lumber per gang hour and about five thousand board feet of Brazilian Log Scale per gang hour. The wharves are supplied with lift trucks and timber carriers.

7. Tugs and Launches. The Basilan Lumber Company owns and operates two tug boats. One is a WP small, and the other, a standard Steamship Tug. Fast launches are also available in case of need. Excellent public launch service between Isabela and Zamboanga is available as follows:

Isabela to Zamboanga - 5:00 AM and 6:00 AM daily.  
Additional launch at 12:00 noon on  
Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.  
Additional launch at 2:00 PM on Saturdays

Zamboanga to Isabela - 9:30 AM and 12:00 noon daily  
Additional launch at 4:30 PM Saturdays and Sundays.

8. Repairs. Minor welding and machine repairs can be performed by the Basilan Lumber Company.

9. Dunnage. Dunnage is obtainable at reasonable rates.

10. Medical Facilities. The Basilan Lumber Company has a modern 10 bed hospital equipped with X-ray. Serious cases can be taken to the modern 40 bed Basilan Hospital in Isabela which is equipped with all of the latest medical devices. Three highly qualified doctors and five trained nurses offer 24 hour emergency service.

11. Water. Fresh water is no longer available at the Basilan Lumber Company wharf. Emergency needs can be acquired from fresh water sources in Zamboanga.

12. Communications. Post office, telegraph station, and a branch of the Philippine National Bank are located in Isabela, Basilan City.

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